

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 05914 192246Z

12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /115 W
----- 055744

R 192232Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1239

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS QUITO 5914

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EC

SUBJECT: ROBALINO DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF DEPOSIT SUSPENSION;
PINEIROS SAYS GULF HAS WITHDRAWN SUIT

1. MINISTER OF FINANCE CESAR ROBALINO TOLD QUITO DAILY "EL COMERCIO" AUGUST 18 THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED OF TEXACO-GULF "PRESUMED" \$50 MILLION RETENTION OF GOE PETROLEUM FUNDS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE SOME FUNDS--HE SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE AMOUNT--THAT HAD BEEN SUSPENDED DUE TO A "ERIES OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS."

2. ROBALINO TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE HAD BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY UNTIL AUGUST 13 AND HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK TO THE MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES NOR THE MANAGER OF THE CENTRAL BANK "TO RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION, SHOULD IT BE CORRECT." BUT, HE ADDED, NO SUCH "RETENTION" HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE GOE CABINET MEETING OF AUGUST 17.

3. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, COL. LUIS PINEIROS, CEPE MANAGER, ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESS AUGUST 18 THAT GULF HAD WITHDRAWN ITS SUIT AGAINST ATLANTIC RICHFIELD. PINEIROS SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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HAD RECEIVED NOTIFICATION OF WITHDRAWAL FROM GULF. ("EL

COMERCIO" WAS NOT ABLE TO CONTACT THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION.) THE ARTICLE COMMENTED THAT GULF'S DECISION COULD BE THE RESULT OF RECENT MEETINGS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.
BLOOMFIEDL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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